

BAT MAN

Featuring **BATMAN AND ROBIN!**
IN 3 BIG ADVENTURES:

- "THE PENGUIN'S STATE-BIRD CRIMES"
- "THE BRAND OF A HERO"
- "THE BLACK DIAMOND"



YOU WILL ALWAYS HIT THE BULL'S-EYE
WHEN YOU BUY A MAGAZINE
WITH THIS TRADEMARK



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BATMAN, No. 58, April-May, 1950. Published bi-monthly by National Comics Publications, Inc., 480 Lexington Ave., New York 17, N. Y. Whitney Ellsworth, Editor. Reentered as second class matter Aug. 1, 1941 at the Post Office at New York, N. Y. under the act of March 3, 1879. Yearly subscription in the U. S. 75c including postage. Foreign, \$1.50 in American funds. For advertising rates address Richard A. Feldon & Co., 205

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Printed in U.S.A.

BAT MAN

WITH
ROBIN
-THE BOY WONDER-

EVERY STATE IN THE UNION HAS ITS OFFICIAL STATE BIRD — FROM THE YELLOWHAMMER OF ALABAMA TO THE MEADOW LARK OF WYOMING! BUT WHEN THAT GROTESQUE LITTLE CROOK OF A THOUSAND UMBRELLAS, THE PENGUIN, LAUNCHES A NEW BIRD-CRIME CAMPAIGN, THE INNOCENT STATE BIRDS BECOME SYMBOLS OF SINISTER MENACE! AND BATMAN AND ROBIN FIND THEMSELVES BATTLING A NEW KIND OF WINGED WRONGDOING AS THEY STRUGGLE TO STOP... "The STATE-BIRD CRIMES!"



BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS YOUNG WARD DICK GRAYSON--OTHERWISE BATMAN AND ROBIN--HAVE A DIFFERENCE OF OPINION OVER BIRDS!



MRS. MARIN, CHIEF OF THE SOCIETY'S WEALTHY PATRONS, EXTENDS A CORDIAL WELCOME...



BUT AT THE END OF THE LINE OF 48 STATE BIRDS, AN EVEN BIGGER SURPRISE!

A PENGUIN?
THIS WASN'T SUPPOSED
TO BE IN OUR
EXHIBIT! WHO
PUT THIS BIRD
HERE?



I WAS,
BUT HAVE JUST
BEEN PAROLED
FOR MY EXEMPLARY
CONDUCT!

YOUR PENGUIN HAS NO PLACE
IN THIS STATE BIRD EXHIBIT.
WE PATRONS OF THE
SOCIETY DEMAND THAT
YOU TAKE IT OUT!



I DID! MY
NAMESAKE BIRD
SHOULD CERTAINLY
REPRESENT AMERICA'S
ANTARCTIC
POSSESSIONS!

THE PENGUIN
HIMSELF! I
THOUGHT--I MEAN,
THE NEWSPAPERS
SAID, YOU WERE
IN JAIL!



SO YOU BIRD SOCIETY PATRONS
THINK THE PENGUIN ISN'T GOOD
ENOUGH TO ASSOCIATE WITH YOUR
FANCY STATE BIRDS? YOU'LL
FIND OUT
DIFFERENTLY.



PRESIDENTLY...

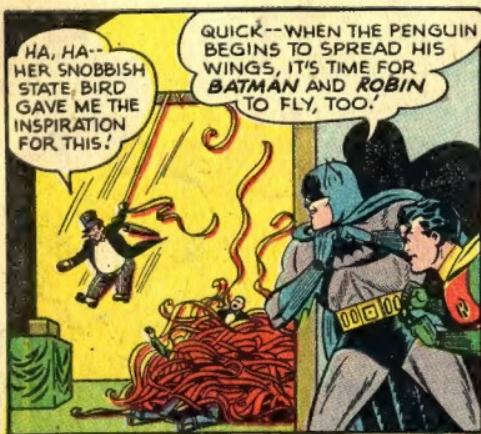
MRS. MARIN'S
STATE BIRD
IS THE
LARK BUNTING!
WELL--



--THIS DECORATIVE
BUNTING WILL HELP
ME RELIEVE MRS. MARIN
OF THE SOCIETY FUNDS!

THE
BUNTING CAME
DOWN ON US!
WE'RE ALL
TANGLED
UP!





BUT THE PENGUIN IS ALREADY FLYING HIGH IN A BIZARRE NEW CRIME CAMPAIGN!

I'LL PUNISH THOSE BIRD SOCIETY PATRONS FOR EJECTING MY PENGUIN! I'LL USE THEIR SNOBBISH STATE BIRDS TO ROB THEM. FIRST — MARK JASON, THE ART DEALER.

WE'RE WITH YOU, IF THE LOOT IS GOOD!

JASON IS AUCTIONING OFF A BIG ANCIENT EGYPTIAN COLLECTION INCLUDING A PRICELESS EMERALD STATUETTE!

HE'S A NATIVE OF ALABAMA, SO WE'LL TAKE THAT STATUETTE BY MEANS OF HIS STATE BIRD, THE YELLOW-HAMMER!



IN THE JASON GALLERY, BEFORE THE SALE BEGINS...



QUICK, WE MUST MAKE OUR PREPARATIONS BEFORE THE AUCTION STARTS.

SOON, ART-DEALER MARK JASON OFFERS FOR SALE A RARE RELIC OF THE ANCIENT WORLD!

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WHAT AM I BID FOR THIS UNIQUE EMERALD STATUETTE OF THE IBIS GOD THOTH?



FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS!

SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND.

FINALLY, A SUCCESSFUL BID...

GOING FOR ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS TO MR. SELLARS! GOING-GOING—



"GONE!" THE AUCTIONEER'S HAMMER COMES DOWN—!

SOLD! BUT WHAT'S THIS—CHOKING GAS—



THE GAS-BOMB I PLANTED IN HIS YELLOW HAMMER DID THE TRICK. I CAN GET AWAY WITH THE STATUETTE BEFORE THEY RECOVER!



BUT THE PENGUIN'S EXPLOITS QUICKLY SHOW HIS TWO MOST IMPLENABLE FOES WHICH WAY THE CRIME-WINDS ARE BLOWING!

HE ROBBED MRS. MARIN BY MEANS OF **BUNTING**, AND JASON BY MEANS OF A **YELLOW HAMMER**! HE'S ROBBING THE SOCIETY PATRONS BY THEIR OWN STATE BIRDS!

BUT HE PULLED ANOTHER JOB THAT DOESN'T INVOLVE THE PATRONS! LISTEN TO THIS—

Gotham Gazette
COSTLY ANTIQUE STOLEN
BY PENGUIN!

"AFTER THE JASON GALLERY OUTRAGE, THE PENGUIN'S BAND ABDUCTED JON HARMON, THE FAMOUS MIMIC-IMPERSONATOR ACTOR, FROM THE ACE THEATER!"

A MIMIC-IMPERSONATOR? WHY, THE STATE BIRD OF FLORIDA IS THE **MOCKING BIRD**! AND JAMES LANE, ONE OF THE PATRON'S, IS A NATIVE OF FLORIDA!

WITHIN MOMENTS, OUT OF THE HIDDEN **BATCAVE** THE MIGHTY **BATMOBILE** ROLLS INTO ACTION!

WE'RE GOING TO SEE LANE AT ONCE! HE OWNS THAT BLIMP LINE THAT SERVES ISOLATED MOUNTAIN TOWNS WHERE PLANES CAN'T LAND.

IMPERSONATOR?
MOCKING BIRD?
I STILL DON'T GET IT, BATMAN!

BUT THE UMBRELLA-CROOK'S AVIAN CRIME PLAN IS SIMPLE! WITH THE ABDUCTED ACTOR...

THE PENGUIN:
WHAT IS THIS?

MR. LANE, LET ME PRESENT YOUR STATE BIRD—the MOCKING BIRD! ONLY THIS IS A HUMAN ONE! GRAB HIM, MEN!

MOMENTS LATER...

YOU HEARD LANE'S VOICE—NOW IMITATE IT EXACTLY ON THE PHONE AND SAY WHAT I TOLD YOU!

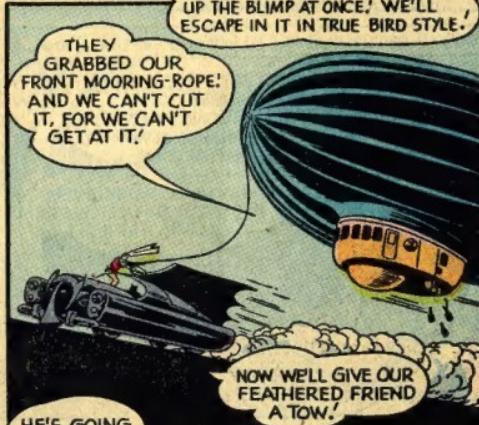
I WILL!

EXACTLY MIMICKING JAMES LANE'S VOICE...

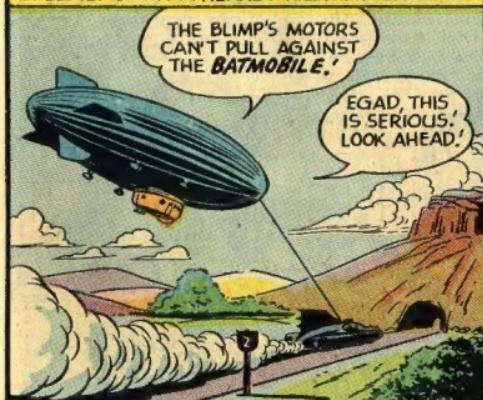
BLIMP HANGAR? YOU'RE TO HAVE SPECIAL GUARDS ON THAT GOLD-SHIPMENT FLIGHT! I'M SENDING THEM OVER NOW!

OKAY, MR. LANE—WE'LL BE EXPECTING THEM! I'LL LET THEM INTO THE HANGAR!

BUT ONCE THE NEW "GUARDS" ARE ADMITTED...



THE POWERFUL **BATMOBILE** TOWS THE LITTLE BLIMP SPEEDILY DOWN A NEARBY HIGHWAY UNTIL...





AFTER RETURNING THE BLIMP AND FREEING LANE...

THE PENGUIN UNDOUBTEDLY HAS COOKED UP STATE BIRD GAGS TO ROB THE OTHER TWO PATRONS—MORLEY KELLS OF THE REMOTE CONTROL COMPANY, AND WILLIAM WHITING, THE ORGAN MANUFACTURER.

WE'LL SPLIT UP, TO PROTECT BOTH PATRONS! YOU CHECK WITH KELLS, WHOSE PLANT IS NEAR HERE—I'LL DRIVE TO WHITING'S ORGAN FACTORY.

I'LL CALL YOU BY UTILITY-BELT RADIO IF I FIND THE PENGUIN!

AND HE'LL WORK EVEN FASTER NOW THAT WE'RE ON HIS TRAIL!



SOON, AT THE FACTORY WHERE RADIO REMOTE CONTROL DEVICES ARE FITTED TO ALL KINDS OF MACHINES...

MR. KELLS, YOU SAY YOUR NATIVE STATE IS RHODE ISLAND, SO YOUR STATE BIRD IS THE BOBWHITE. HAS ANYTHING INVOLVING A BOBWHITE HAPPENED HERE?

WHY, NO... THERE'VE BEEN NO BIRDS HERE. BUT WAIT A MOMENT--



WE RECEIVED AN ORDER TO FIT THAT POWER-SHOVEL WITH RADIO REMOTE CONTROL! THE ORDER WAS SIGNED BY A MR. ROBERT WHITE!

ROBERT WHITE--BOBWHITE--A PENGUIN STATE-BIRD GAG! YOU MUST DISMANTLE THOSE CONTROLS AT ONCE!





BUT AT THAT MOMENT...

THE "ROBERT WHITE"
WHO HAD YOU
FIT IT UP
WAS THE
PENGUIN--
AND
HE'S
COMING
TOWARD
MY
OFFICE!
OPERATING
IT NOW BY
REMOTE CONTROL!



NICE OF KELLS
TO FIT UP THAT
POWER-SHOVEL
FOR ME TO
USE, WASN'T
IT?

HAW, HAW--WE'LL
US IT NOW TO SCOOP
UP HIS OFFICE, SAFE
AND BRING IT OUT
TO US!



BUT WITH UNDAUNTED PRESENCE OF MIND...

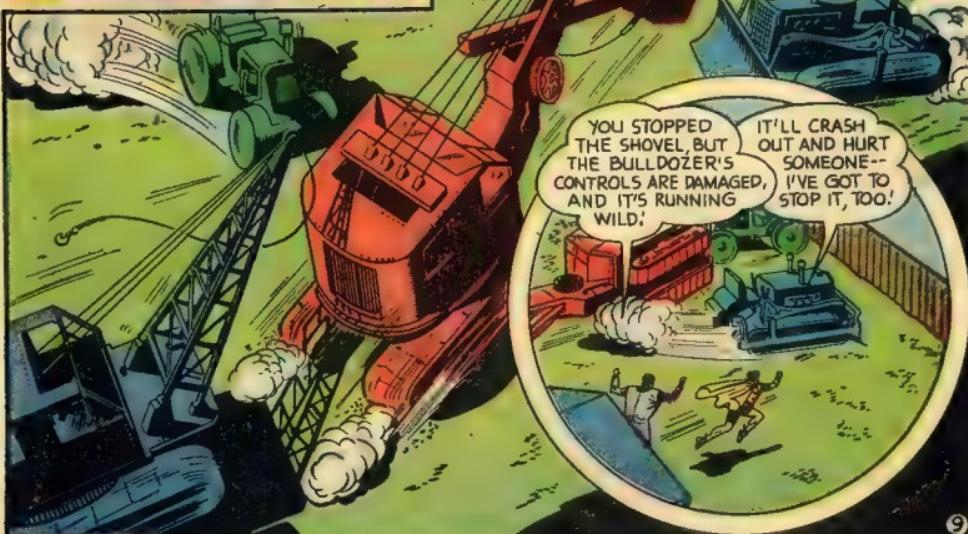
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO
STOP THAT THING! GET THE
REMOTE CONTROL BOXES
OF THOSE OTHER BIG
MACHINES, QUICK!



...THE BOY WONDER USES REMOTE CONTROL TO
HURL OTHER MINDLESS STEEL MONSTERS INTO
TITAN CONFLICT WITH THE POWER-SHOVEL!

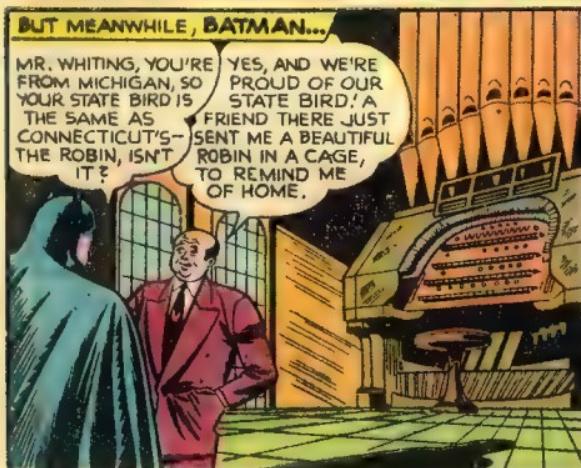
THE BULLDOZER
ALONE CAN'T
STOP THE
SHOVEL!

THAT'S WHY
I'M USING
THE BIG CRANE
AND POWER
ROLLER, TOO!



YOU STOPPED
THE SHOVEL, BUT
THE BULLDOZER'S
CONTROLS ARE DAMAGED,
AND IT'S RUNNING
WILD!

IT'LL CRASH
OUT AND HURT
SOMEONE--
I'VE GOT TO
STOP IT, TOO!





NO EXPLOSION! COULD MY ROBIN GAG HAVE GONE WRONG? LOOK, THE BATMOBILE! THAT MEANS BATMAN'S IN THERE-- HE'S QUEERED THINGS AGAIN!

HE HASN'T WON THIS TIME-- WE'RE STILL GOING TO ROB WHITING BY MEANS OF A ROBIN! BRING THE BRAT WITH US, AND KEEP HIM COVERED! I GET IT! WE'VE GOT BATMAN WHERE WE WANT HIM THIS TIME!

IN A MOMENT...

BATMAN, MAKE WHITING HAND OVER THAT PAYROLL OR THE BRAT, HERE, WILL PAY THE PENALTY! WITH THAT GUN TRAINED ON ROBIN, I DAREN'T START ANYTHING! BUT WAIT--THERE'S ONE CHANCE--

SURREPTITIOUSLY SWITCHING ON THE AIR-COMPRESSOR OF THE GIANT ELECTRIC PIPE-ORGAN...

I CAN'T LET ROBIN BE HARMED!

I WAS SURE YOU'D COOPERATE!

...BATMAN SUDDENLY PRESSES DOWN A PEDAL, AND THE DEAFENING DIAPASON OF THE GIANT ORGAN ROARS FORTH!



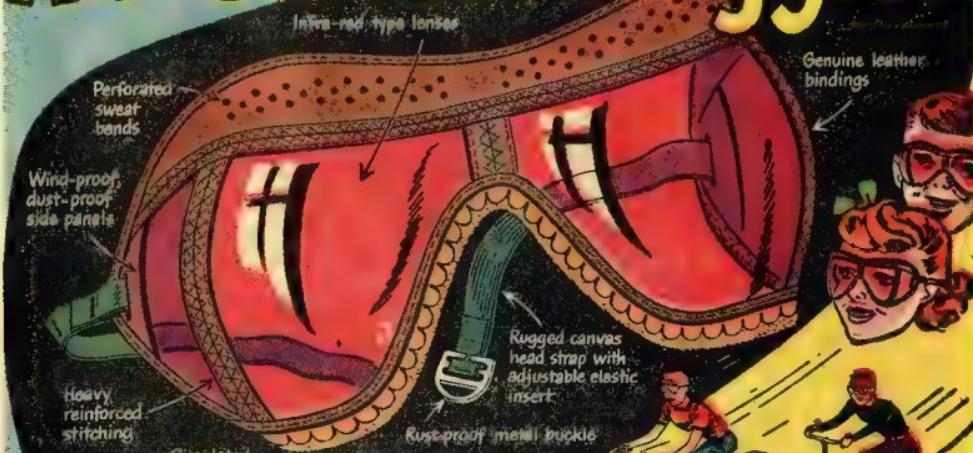
TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE INSTANT IN WHICH THE CROOKS NEGLECT TO COVER ROBIN...



CAN YOU GUESS WHAT SECRET LIES BEHIND TROPHY 1,001 IN THE BATCAVE? SEE THE APRIL ISSUE OF DETECTIVE COMICS, NOW ON SALE!

THE END

Bazooka Pals! Get these Air-Combat Goggles



Only 10¢

PLUS
5 Penny Bazooka Wrappers
or
1 Big Bazooka (5¢) Wrapper

These goggles are exactly like those worn by soldiers and airmen in training for combat. Swell for fast bike riding—protects you against wind, rain and dust. See more clearly through haze and glare.

Just mail 10¢ and 5 Penny Bazooka wrappers, or one Big Bazooka wrapper and 10¢, to BAZOOKA, Dept. -B, Box 100, Brooklyn 32, N. Y. Get your goggles now—they're swell. Offer expires July 1, 1950.

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2 BIG CHEWS 1¢

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A Complete Picture-Story
of a Thrilling **NEW** Movie
BEFORE it Hits the Screen!



THAT'S WHAT
YOU'LL GET IN
EVERY ISSUE
OF
**FEATURE
FILMS**

- THE SMASHING FIRST ISSUE IS A DRAMATIZATION OF PARAMOUNT'S SWASHBUCKLING TALE OF ADVENTURE ON THE HIGH SEAS...THE STORY OF THE RENEGADE SKIPPER WHO LOSES HIS SHIP AND HIS GOOD NAME BEFORE HE BATTLES HIS WAY BACK TO SELF-RESPECT AND THE LOVE OF A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN!

DON'T
MISS THIS
GREAT FIRST
ISSUE!

R

READ THE PICTURE-STORY
THEN SEE IT ON
THE SCREEN!

BATMAN

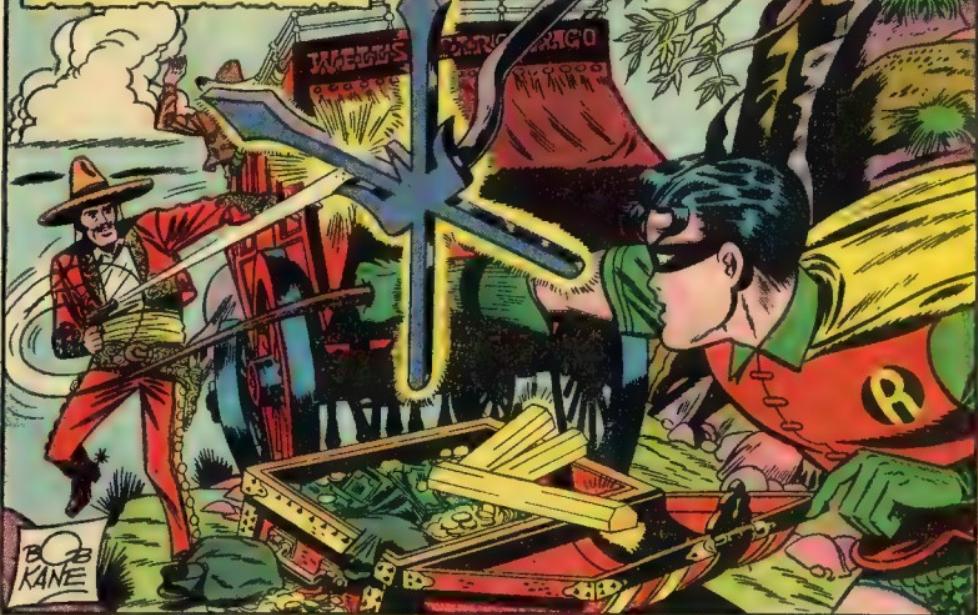
WITH ROBIN

- THE BOY WONDER -

GOLD!

MEN HAVE SPENT LIFETIMES SEARCHING FOR IT... AND MEN HAVE DIED FOR IT... NOW, HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO GO ALONG WITH BATMAN AND ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER, ON A NEW AND SENSATIONAL KIND OF TREASURE HUNT THAT STARTS IN TODAY'S GOTHAM CITY AND MOVES BACKWARD INTO THE WILDEST PERIOD OF THE WESTERN FRONTIER! YOU'LL THRILL TO THE DANGERS THAT THE DYNAMIC DUO ENCOUNTER AS THEY SEARCH FOR THE ANSWER TO A HALF-FORGOTTEN MYSTERY ON A TRAIL BLAZED NEARLY A CENTURY AGO BY...

"The BRAND of a HERO!"



BOB KANE

THE HOME OF BRUCE WAYNE IS ALWAYS OPEN TO FRIENDS--ESPECIALLY ONES WITH PROBLEMS, LIKE REX SPEARS...

COME IN, REX! I HOPE YOU'VE FINALLY DECIDED TO LET ME HELP SAVE YOUR FIRM FROM GOING BROKE!

THANKS, BRUCE--BUT IF I CAN'T HANDLE IT MYSELF, I DESERVE TO FAIL! HOWEVER, MAYBE I HAVE THE ANSWER RIGHT HERE!



LOOK! THIS PIECE OF BRANDED COWHIDE CAME IN THE MAIL TODAY WITH THIS LETTER!

IT'S YOUR FAMILY EMBLEM--A CROWN SIGNIFYING "KING", AND CROSSED SPEARS! WHAT ABOUT THE LETTER?



Dear Mr. Spears:

This here mark was made with an old branding iron I found in California. Oldtimers say it belonged to one of your ancestors, and I reckon maybe you'd want to have it. I am in Gotham City with the Wild West Show. Yours truly, Lorenzo Bagg

AS YOU KNOW, THE FIRST REX SPEARS, MY GREAT GRANDFATHER STRUCK IT RICH IN THE CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH NEARLY 100 YEARS AGO: HE BOUGHT A RANCH,

AND IN 1854, ON HIS WAY BACK WITH A QUARTER-EAST TO HIS MILLION DOLLARS' FAMILY--

AND THAT BRANDING IRON MAY BE A CLUE

TO THE MISSING FORTUNE!

WELL, WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR? LET'S GET OVER TO THAT WILD WEST SHOW!



PRESENTLY, AT THE GOTHAM ARENA...

HMM... THE NAME OF LORENZO BAGG ISN'T IN THE PROGRAM! WE'LL LOOK HIM UP AFTER THE SHOW!



BEHIND THE SCENES, WHEN THE SHOW IS OVER...

PARDON ME, YOUNGSTER--BUT COULD YOU TELL ME WHERE TO FIND LORENZO BAGG?

SURE ENOUGH! I'M LORENZO BAGG!





WELL! I'M REX SPEARS,
AND THESE ARE MY
FRIENDS, BRUCE
WAYNE AND DICK
TO KNOW
GRAYSON.

RECKON YOU'RE
HERE ABOUT THAT
BRANDING IRON?
IT'S OVER THIS WAY,
IN MY HEAD-
QUARTERS!

HERE'S WHERE I BUNK,
WITH THE HORSES--AND
HERE'S THE IRON! I FOUND
IT HALF-BURIED IN RATTLESNAKE
CANYON NEAR THE OLD
SACRAMENTO TRAIL, FIVE
MILES FROM COLUMBIA,
MY HOME TOWN!

COLUMBIA! THAT'S WHERE
I FOUND MY GREAT-
GRANDFATHER
WAS TO START
HOME FROM,
AND THIS WOOD IS
ROTTED AND THE
METAL IS PITTED
WITH RUST!

I WANT TO PAY YOU,
LORENZO! I GUESS
YOU COULD USE SOME
MONEY, AND THIS MAY
BE WORTH A GOOD
DEAL TO ME!

NO,
LORENZO! I GUESS
YOU COULD USE SOME
MONEY, AND THIS MAY
BE WORTH A GOOD
DEAL TO ME!

DAD DIED, HE
TOLD ME YOUR
GREAT GRANDDAD
HELPED MY GREAT
GRANDDAD ONCE, SO
WE BAGGS OWE
YOU A FAVOR!



IT'S THE GENUINE
ARTICLE, BRUCE!
I'LL FIND SOME
WAY OF REPAYING
THAT YOUNGSTER!

QUITE A LAD, LORENZO--
AND POSSIBLY HE'S GIVEN YOU
A VALUABLE CLUE! BUT SIT
TIGHT FOR A DAY OR SO, REX!
IT WILL BE A COLD TRAIL AFTER
96 YEARS, AND I KNOW A
MAN WHO MAY-UH--
SIMPLIFY THINGS
A LOT.



LATER, PROFESSOR CARTER NICHOLS, NOTED GOTHAM
CITY SCIENTIST, WELCOMES MIDNIGHT CALLERS...

BRUCE AND DICK! COULDN'T
YOU SLEEP? OR IS YOUR
PRESENCE REQUIRED IN THE
DIM PAST, WHERE I
HAVE SENT YOU SO
OFTEN BEFORE?

RIGHT THE
SECOND TIME,
PROFESSOR!



THE STORY IS QUICKLY TOLD...AND
SOON A HYPNOTIC SPELL ENABLES
BRUCE AND DICK TO PIERCE ALL
TIME BARRIERS...

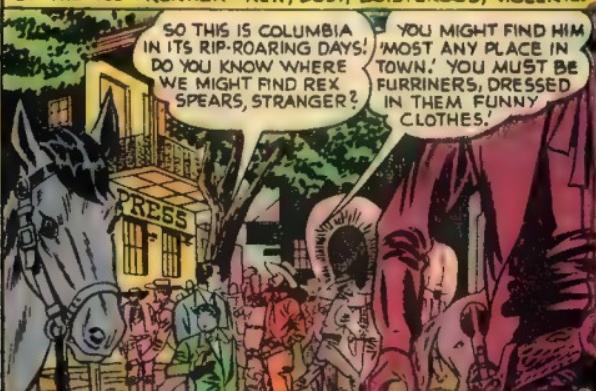
YOU WILL SLEEP...SLEEP...
AND WAKE IN THE YEAR
1854! YOU ARE DRIFTING
BACK... BACK...
BACK TO...
1854...



AND THEIR NEXT CONSCIOUS IMPRESSION IS OF A GOLD-RUSH TOWN
OF THE OLD FRONTIER -- NEW, BUSY, BOISTEROUS, VIOLENT...

SO THIS IS COLUMBIA
IN ITS RIP-ROARING DAYS!
DO YOU KNOW WHERE
WE MIGHT FIND REX
SPEARS, STRANGER?

YOU MIGHT FIND HIM
MOST ANY PLACE IN
TOWN! YOU MUST BE
FURRINERS, DRESSED
IN THEM FUNNY
CLOTHES!





SUDDENLY...

BUSINESS FOR
BATMAN AND
ROBIN
ALREADY! WE'LL
SLIP BETWEEN
THESE STORES TO
SWITCH!

BANG! BANG!

SECONDS LATER, THE TIDE OF AN UNNEVEN BATTLE IN THE PAST IS TURNED
BY--HEROES OF THE FUTURE!

I DON'T LIKE YOU COYOTES
TRYING TO KILL ME ANY
MORE THAN I LIKE BEING
CHEATED AT POKER!

SOMEBODY
IS BUTTING
IN! I'LL FIX-
UH! MY
FOOT!



FRONTIER
DESPERADOES,
USED TO
FAST AND
FURIOUS
ACTION ARE
BEWILDERED
BY THE
LIGHTNING
TACTICS
OF THE
DYNAMIC
DUO...

EXCUSE MY
BACK, CHUM!
IT HITS HARDER
THIS WAY!

LIGHTS OUT FOR YOU
WITH THE BAT ON
YOUR CHEST!



LIGHTS? THANKS FOR
THE SUGGESTION!

OUCH!



IF YOU THINK
THAT HURT, TRY
THIS FOR SIZE!

CUSTOMERS FOR
THE CALABOOSA,
EH?



I'M PLUMB GRATEFUL! REX SPEARS! WE DON'T WANT ANY REWARD EXCEPT YOU, NAME IT! REX SPEARS ISN'T A MAN TO FORGET A FAVOR!

REX SPEARS! YOUR FRIENDSHIP, SPEARS! I'M CALLED BATMAN, AND THIS IS ROBIN, MY PARTNER!

THOSE GAMBLING CROOKS KNEW I'D SOLD MY MINE AND RANCH FOR A QUARTER-MILLION CASH! THEY HID ACES IN THEIR BOOT TOPS, TRYING TO CLEAN ME BEFORE I LEFT TOWN!

DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE CARRYING THAT MUCH MONEY WITH YOU!



IT'S IN A TRUNK AT THE EXPRESS OFFICE! BUT IT'LL BE WITH ME TOMORROW MORNING WHEN I TAKE THE SACRAMENTO STAGE ON MY WAY HOME!

CAREFUL HOW YOU TALK, REX! THERE'S PLENTY WOULD RISK THEIR NECKS FOR THAT MONEY--AND YOUR NEW FRIENDS DO WEAR MASKS!



AS NIGHT FALLS OVER THE INCREDIBLE COMMUNITY OF RICHES AND RIOT, STEALTH AND SUSPICION...

FORGET WHAT THE SHERIFF SAID, BATMAN! HE'S SUSPICIOUS OF EVERYBODY SINCE JOAQUIN MURIETA AND HIS BANDITS STARTED RAIDING HEREABOUT!

MURIETA? I SHOULD THINK HE WOULD BE! AFTER ALL, HE KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT ROBIN AND ME!



I GOT A GOLD-PLATED SHIRT; LEFT IT IN THE CREEK TO WASH ITSELF, AND IT PICKED UP A POUND OF GOLD DUST!

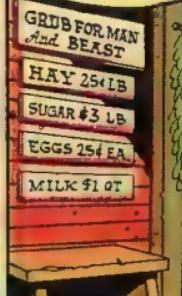
THAT'S NOTHING! SEE THOSE LIGHTS IN CHARLIE'S BARBER SHOP? EVERY NIGHT, AFTER HE SWEEPS UP, HE PANS GOLD FROM THE TRIMMINGS OF MINERS' HAIR.



AH, LORENZO BAGG! MEET MY GOOD FRIENDS BATMAN AND ROBIN... LORENZO IS GOING EAST WITH ME TO ATTEND SCHOOL WITH MY SON, REX THE SECOND!

YOU SEE, BATMAN AND ROBIN, SINCE MURIETA'S BANDITS KILLED MY PARENTS, MR. SPEAR HAS BEEN MY BEST FRIEND!

SAME FACE--SAME NAME--EVERYTHING!





LATER, AS BATMAN AND ROBIN STROLL ALONG...



AND HERE, GOING ABOUT HIS DANGEROUS BUSINESS WITH SINISTER CALM, IS CALIFORNIA'S MOST NOTORIOUS OUTLAW OF ALL TIME-- JOAQUIN MURIETA, SCOURGE OF THE GOLD FIELDS!



NEXT INSTANT...

HAVE I THE PLEASURE OF MEETING MURIETA, THE BANDIT WHO IS OVERRIPED FOR HANGING?



THERE ARE OTHER WEAPONS BESIDES KNIVES AND GUNS!

CRUDE BUT EFFECTIVE! MY SHOT WILL WAKE THE TOWN, VASQUEZ! LET US VAMOS. DO NOT WASTE TIME SHOOTING THIS MEDDLESOME YANQUI!

WHY KILL WHEN THERE IS NO PROFIT IN IT? WE CAN TRY AGAIN FOR THE MONEY IN THE MORNING, WHEN THE STAGECOACH LEAVES!

AH!
PERHAPS YOU ARE RIGHT, JOAQUIN!



THE GUILTY ESCAPE WITH A CLATTER OF HOOFBEATS--
BUT THE INNOCENT ARE LESS FORTUNATE...



AT THE LOCAL CALABOOS...

CAN'T TAKE CHANCES WITH STRANGERS! EVEN IF MURIETA **WAS** HERE, LIKE YOU SAY, IT COULD BE YOU SPIED OUT THE WAY FOR HIM!

YOU'RE MAKING A MISTAKE, SHERIFF--BUT I SUPPOSE THERE'S NO USE ARGUING!



BATMAN, HOWEVER, HAS NO INTENTION OF WASTING PRECIOUS TIME IN A JAIL CELL...



SHAPING AND BALANCING A BENT PIECE OF WOOD, **BATMAN** TIES AN END OF HIS STEEL-STRONG SILKEN CORD TO IT! THEN...



RIGHT! I WASN'T SURE THIS HOME-MADE ONE WOULD WORK SO WELL!



AND LONG BEFORE DAWN, AT FIVE MILE CREEK...



WE MADE IT, THANKS TO THEM, ROBIN--AND YOU'LL HAVE TO BORROW OTHERS! I WANT YOU TO RIDE TO ALL OFFENSE IN THESE PARTS? UP A POSSE, IN CASE MURIETA'S MOB ATTACKS THE STAGE!



DROWSY MINERS AT SAWMILL FLAT, MATELOT GULCH AND SECOND GAROTTE SNATCH UP GUNS AS A BOY ON A LATHERED STEED SPREADS THE ALARM...

MURIETA'S THREATENED TO ROB THE MORNING STAGE ON THE SACRAMENTO TRAIL! WHO'S GAME TO GO AFTER HIM?

MURIETA? EVERY ABLE-BODIED MAN IN THIS HERE CAMP WILL BE OUT TO TAKE A SHOT AT THAT BUZZARD!



AND AS THE SUN GLEAMS ON THE SNOWY PEAKS OF THE SIERRA NEVADAS, THE STAGE RUMBLIES OUT OF COLUMBIA WITH LORENZO BAGG, REX SPEARS, AND A TRUNKFUL OF TREASURE ABOARD...

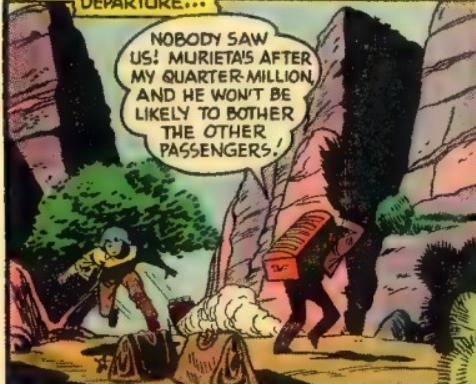
IMAGINE THAT CRAZY SHERIFF JAILING BATMAN! HE'S A STRAIGHT SHOOTER AND I'M GLAD HE ESCAPED! KEEPING YOUR EYES SKINNED, LORENZO?

YES! IF THE BANDITS COME, WE MUST SEE THEM FIRST TO CARRY OUT YOUR PLAN!



THE CREAK AND CLATTER OF THE COACH AND ITS FOUR HORSES COVER THE SOUND OF TWO PASSENGERS' DEPARTURE...

NOBODY SAW US! MURIETA'S AFTER MY QUARTER-MILLION, AND HE WON'T BE LIKELY TO BOTHER THE OTHER PASSENGERS!



AT SONORA, THE BOY WONDER MAKES THE FIRST OF SEVERAL CHANGES OF HORSES...

WE'LL HIT THE TRAIL—TWENTY OR THIRTY OF US—RIGHT AWAY!

NOW I KNOW HOW THE PONY EXPRESS RIDERS WILL FEEL WHEN THEY START THEIR FIRST ROUTE OUT OF SACRAMENTO IN 1860!



AS THE ROCKY TRAIL PASSES RATTLESNAKE CANYON...

THERE! A HORSEMAN IN MEXICAN COSTUME!

MURIETA'S LOOKOUT, PROBABLY! WE'LL CUT LOOSE OUR LUGGAGE SLIDE OFF, AND HIDE IN A CAVE IN THAT CANYON!



MINUTES LATER...

NO ONE WILL BE HARMED UNLESS YOU ARE FOOLISH ENOUGH TO FIGHT!

I'M NOT FIGHTING!
THERE'S A REGULAR ARMY OF THEM! IT'S TOUGH ON SPEARS,
BUT—HEY!
WHERE IS HE?



NONE SEES A GRIM, CAPED FIGURE CROUCHED HIGH ABOVE THE ROBBERY SCENE...

PAH! THE GRINGO SPEARS STAYED BEHIND WITH HIS MONEY! AND THERE IS BUT A PALTRY THOUSAND DOLLARS IN THE EXPRESS BOX!

SO SPEARS ISN'T ABOARD! JUST THE SAME I'LL DO WHAT I CAN TILL ROBIN'S POSSE SHOWS UP— IF IT'S GOING TO!

ABRUPTLY...

LET'S MIX IT UP A LITTLE, SHALL WE?

OOFF! YANQUI, FOR THIS YOLI DIE!

AH! A MAN— OR A DEVIL WHO FLIES LIKE A BAT!

THE STRANGE MAN AND BOY WHO SURPRISED US IN THE EXPRESS OFFICE WARNED SPEARS! WE SHOULD HAVE KILLED THEM!

BUT FISTS ALONE ARE FEEBLE WEAPONS AGAINST BULLETS! THE NEXT INSTANT...

VAMOS! THERE ARE HORSES— MANY HORSES— COMING!

NEVER AGAIN WILL YOU ATTACK JOAQUIN MURIETA!

ROBIN'S POSSE ARRIVES AT LAST, WITH ROARING GUNS AND THUNDERING HOOFs!

BATMAN! YOU'RE HURT!

JUST DIZZY! A BULLET GRAZED ME, BUT I'LL BE UP AND AROUND IN A MINUTE; THAT POSSE WILL TAKE CARE OF MURIETA! NICE WORK, ROBIN!



LATER, RIDING BACK TOWARD COLUMBIA,
BATMAN AND ROBIN MEET A TROUBLED
YOUNGSTER...

LORENZO! WHAT
HAPPENED TO
YOU AND SPEARS?
WHERE IS HE?
IN THE CANYON!
SOMETHING IS
WRONG, BUT I DON'T
KNOW WHAT! HE
TOLD ME TO GIVE
THIS MESSAGE TO
YOU OR THE SHERIFF!

Friend:

I enclose \$1,000 to care
for my young friend
Lorenzo Bagg until
other arrangements
can be made. Please
search Rattlesnake
Canyon for a tree
branded by me. Nearby
are gold, money and
my will. If you dis-
cover what happened to
me, do not tell Lorenzo.
He has had enough of
tragedy.

Rex Spears

TAKE THIS HORSE, LORENZO,
AND GIVE THE ENVELOPE
TO THE SHERIFF! I'LL

GO TO SPEARS! AND CERTAINLY
DON'T SHOW THAT NOT! I
MESSAGE TO GAVE MR. SPEARS
ANYONE ELSE! MY WORD!

PRESENTLY...

HERE'S THE BRANDED TREE,
BATMAN, AND A PILE OF
STONES, PROBABLY COVERING
THE GOLD AND MONEY THE
NOTE MENTIONED!

AND HERE'S A DEAD
RATTLESNAKE... AND
A MAN'S FOOTPRINTS
LEADING TO WHAT MUST
HAVE BEEN A CAVE TILL
SOMEONE SEALED IT
WITH STONES AND
RUBBLE--FROM THE
INSIDE!

BATMAN READS THE FAINT SIGNS--AND ALMOST AS
VIVIDLY AS IF IT WERE HAPPENING NOW, HIS KEEN
MIND VISUALIZES THE RECENT TRAGEDY IN THE CANYON:
AND THIS WAS THE WAY OF IT...

A RATTLESNAKE,
COILED TO STRIKE
AT LORENZO!
NO TIME TO
WARN HIM OR
HUNT FOR A
WEAPON! ONLY
ONE WAY TO
SAVE
HIM...

THERE'S A
CAVE--BUT IT'S
NOT VERY
BIG!



HUH-?

LOOK
OUT!

IT GOT
ME--IN THE
CHEST, NEAR
THE HEART! CAN'T
USE A TOURNIQUET,
OR GET HELP IN
TIME!

LORENZO MUSTN'T KNOW! HE'S
COUNTING ON ME, AFTER LOSING
HIS FOLKS--AND I CAN'T ROB HIM
OF HIS LAST HOPE ALL
AT ONCE.



A STONE FINISHES THE DEADLY SNAKE! THEN...

CLOSE CALL, EH? I JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING IMPORTANT! WILL YOU TAKE A NOTE FROM ME TO THE SHERIFF OR **BATMAN**? AND PROMISE TO KEEP YOUR CHIN UP IF ANYTHING GOES WRONG!

I'LL DO WHATEVER YOU SAY; BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND! IS SOMETHING GOING WRONG?

POOR LITTLE FELLOW! I THINK HE DOES UNDERSTAND - VAGUELY - BUT HE'S HOPING FOR THE BEST, AND DOING WHAT I ASKED! IT'S TOUGH ON BOTH OF US! BUT WHAT CAN I DO?

WHILE THE IRON HEATS, I'LL WRITE A LAST MESSAGE TO MY WIFE AND SON, AND ASK THEM TO LOOK AFTER LORENZO! I'LL PUT IT IN THE TRUNK, AND COVER IT WITH STONES. THE SHERIFF OR **BATMAN** WILL KNOW WHAT TO DO!

THIS BRAND WILL TELL THEM WHERE TO LOOK! I'M SICK - AND THE PAIN IS GETTING WORSE - BUT THERE'S NOTHING LEFT TO DO NOW BUT CRAWL INTO THE CAVE AND SEAL THE OPENING WITH STONES TO KEEP COYOTES AND BUZZARDS AWAY!

YES, THE IMMEDIATE PAST IS PLAIN TO **BATMAN** - BUT NOT THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE ...

HE WAS A REAL MAN, ROBIN! KNOWING HE WAS DONE FOR, HE THOUGHT ONLY OF HIS FAMILY AND THE ORPHAN BOY! WHEN HE'D DONE ALL HE COULD, HE CRAWLED INTO A CAVE AND CLOSED IT WITH STONES --

AND LOOSESED SOME STONES HIGHER UP, IT LOOKS LIKE... LOOK OUT, BATMAN -- THE WHOLE CLIFF IS COLLAPSING!

WE HAVEN'T GOT A CHANCE --

ALL THE WORLD SEEKS TO TREMBLE IN THE THUNDERING FALL OF THOUSANDS OF TONS OF ROCK...

THEN, AS THE THUNDER FADES...

...HAVEN'T GOT
A CHANCE -!
HUH? WHERE
AM I?

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YOU FELL OFF THE
SOFA, BABBLING
ABOUT A
LANDSLIDE!

THAT'S IT! THE SHERIFF COULDN'T
FIND THE BRANDED TREE OR THE
CHEST BECAUSE THE LANDSLIDE
BURIED EVERYTHING! NO
WONDER IT TURNED INTO A
96-YEAR-OLD MYSTERY!
BUT WE
KNOW EXACTLY
WHERE
EVERYTHING IS.
LET'S HUNT UP REX
SPEARS -- AND
LORENZO BAGG, TOO!



LATER, A FAST PLANE STREAKS WESTWARD... AND THE FOLLOWING DAY, IN RATTLESNAKE CANYON...

THERE IS
WHERE I FOUND
THE OLD
BRANDING
IRON!

AND RIGHT HERE IS WHERE
I'VE FOUND THE TRUNK;
HELP CLEAR THE STONES
AWAY FROM IT!



HERE'S HIS WILL, AND A LETTER
WRITTEN TO HIS WIFE AS HE
WAS DYING! HE LEFT EVERYTHING
TO HER AND THEIR SON, BUT
ASKED HER TO TAKE CARE
OF-- LORENZO BAGG!

MY GREAT-
GRANDDAD,
THAT WOULD
BE!



YOU'RE HIS HEIR, JUST AS I'M REX SPEARS'
HEIR! THERE'S ENOUGH MONEY TO
SAVE MY BUSINESS, PUT YOU
THROUGH COLLEGE, AND START
YOU OFF IN WHATEVER CAREER
YOU CHOOSE!

YOU--YOU MEAN--?
GOSH--IT'S
LIKE A
DREAM!



AND LATER STILL, BACK IN GOTHAM CITY...

REX DIDN'T REALIZE WHEN
HE GAVE US THIS THAT HE
WAS GIVING BATMAN AND
ROBIN A TROPHY TO
REMIND THEM OF GOLD-
PLATED MINERS' SHIRTS,
OF MURIETA AND
RATTLESNAKE CANYON!

BATCAVE
TROPHY ROOM

AND OF A
GRAND MAN
WHO RISKED HIS
LIFE FOR A
FORTUNE, AND WON
IT, DICK--FOR
OTHERS!



NOW! THE 1001 SECRETS OF BATMAN AND ROBIN'S HALL OF TROPHIES EXPOSED BY THE SINISTER DR. DOOM - IN THE APRIL ISSUE OF DETECTIVE COMICS, NOW ON SALE!

THE
END

AMAZING VALUE!

BE THE FIRST IN THE STAMPEDE FOR THIS

STRAIGHT ARROW

GOOD LUCK

RING

NOT A TOY—
A REAL RING
SOLID
INDIAN BRONZE



ONLY
10¢

AND A
NABISCO
SHREDDED WHEAT
BOX TOP

The breakfast full of
POWER from
Niagara Falls



Baked by NABISCO
NATIONAL BISCUIT
COMPANY



- Raised carved profile of Straight Arrow himself!
- Shines—without polishing!
- Adjustable—fits any finger!
- Straight Arrow's mystic pass words secretly engraved!
- Indian good luck charm!
- Original—Exclusive!
- No other like it!

*LOOK! Full-faced
carved head of Straight
Arrow embossed on
solid metal!*



HONEST INJUN! THIS RING IS REAL JEWELRY!

A real ring with no gadgets to break! You'll wear it proudly, show it off to all your friends. Straight Arrow himself wears his always! Hear his adventures, with the ring, on the exciting Straight Arrow radio show. Look in your local paper for time and station.

HURRY! LIMITED TIME ONLY!

NABISCO SHREDDED WHEAT
Box 200, New York 46, N.Y.

Please rush me my STRAIGHT ARROW RING. I enclose 10¢ and a NABISCO SHREDDED WHEAT box top. (Please print.)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zone _____ State _____

No stamps please. Offer good in U.S. only, closes May 31, 1950

DEATH DANCE

YES... BECAUSE NEITHER MUST BREAK THE TREATY, BLACK HAWK. THERE CAN BE NO EXCUSE! GO NOW TO YOUR HOMES!

TTRIBAL FEUDS HAD THREATENED THE EXTINCTION OF BOTH SAUKS AND IOWAS. AND YET, EVEN AS SAUK WARRIORS LISTENED TO THEIR MIGHTY CHIEF TELL OF THE NEW PEACE TREATY WITH THE IOWAS, ONE INDIAN JEOPARDIZED THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS. ONLY THE SIMPLE HONOR AND COURAGE OF A BRAVE, FACING THE DREAD DEATH DANCE SAVED THE TREATY!

MIGHTY KEOKUK, ACCORDING TO THE AGREEMENT, MUST ONE OF US DIE EVEN IF WE KILL AN IOWA IN SELF-DEFENSE?



HAS YOUR WHITE SON OSAUKEE RUN AWAY, BLACK HAWK?

NO, RED EAGLE, HE IS HAPPY WITH US. EVEN AS WE NOW CELEBRATE THE PEACE, HE AND MY TWO SONS, LOUD THUNDER AND NASOMSEE ARE ON A HUNTING TRIP!

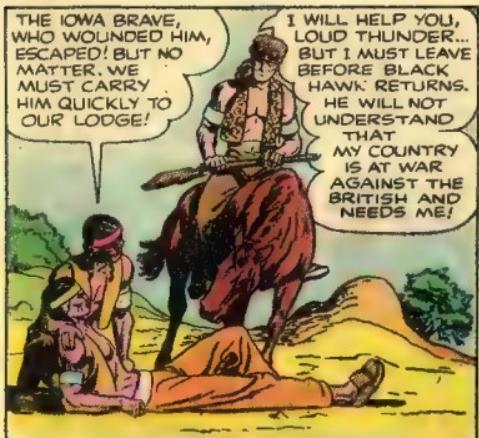
MEANWHILE, PURSUING THE WILD GAME IN THE WILDERNESS...

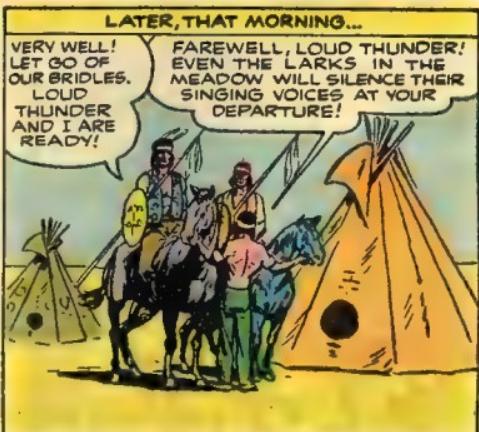
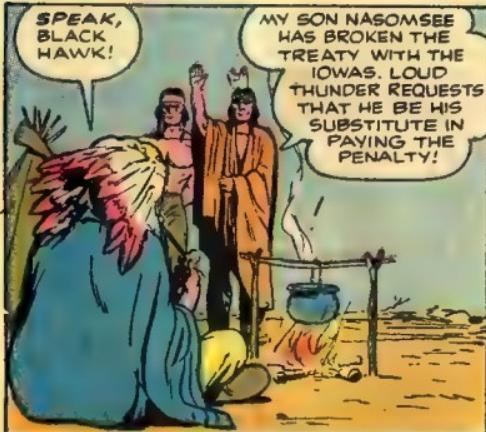


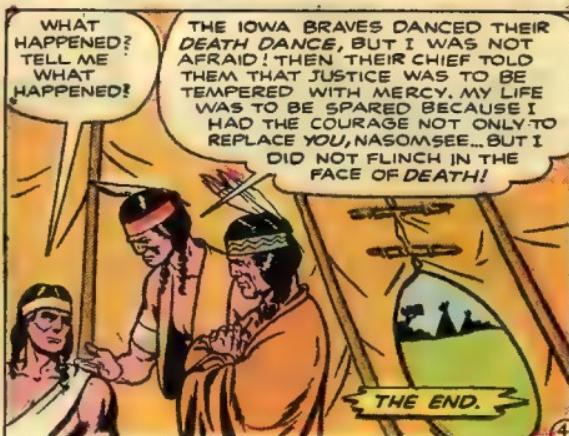
DO NOT GO, OSAUKEE! LOUD THUNDER AND I WISH OUR WHITE BROTHER TO STAY!

I'M NOT OSAUKEE ANY MORE! I'M JIM KILBOURN, AND I'M RETURNING TO MY PEOPLE! I MUST SCOUT AGAIN FOR THE U.S. ARMY. IT'S BEEN MANY MOONS SINCE I WAS CAPTURED BY BLACK HAWK. SO FAREWELL TO YOU BOTH!

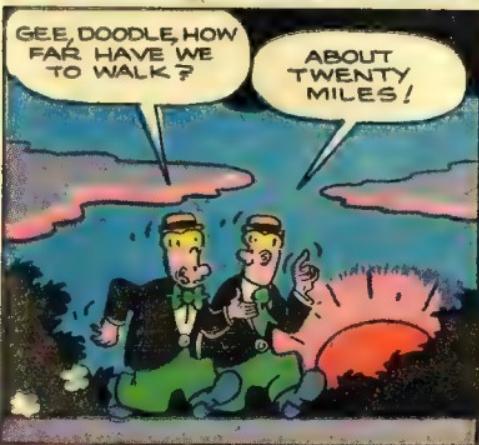




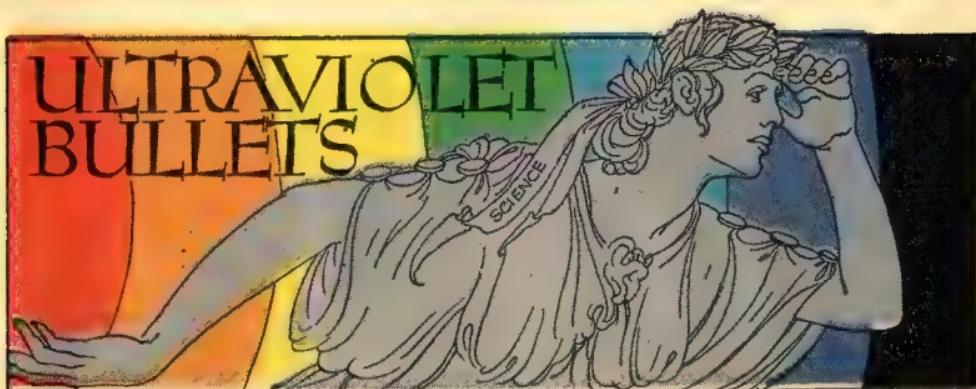




DAFFY & DOODLE



ULTRAVIOLET BULLETS



BUGS that cannot be seen with the naked eye now can be killed by light which also is invisible. But while these germs are invisible to man, their wicked work leaves tell-tale "footprints" such as disease and food spoilage.

The war against microbes has known no armistice through the ages. Heat, chemicals and serums have been the three weapons available to either kill, cripple or maim them.

Heat, for example, is the principle used in sterilizing dishes and silverware with hot water; the chlorination of drinking water to make it safe to drink is an example of chemical treatment, while vaccination which prevents smallpox is an injection of a vaccine serum. Refrigeration keeps bacteria from growing but it doesn't kill them—merely seems to put them to sleep.

But heat, chemicals and serums never caught up with the air, one of the commonest sources of human infections and spoiled food.

So scientists devised a lamp to fire invisible, silent ultraviolet bullets which they knew from their experiments would blast to death man's enemies of the invisible world speedily, cheaply, conveniently and without a miss.

These foes are bacteria, viruses—the toughest microbes of them all to find—and the plant-like organisms that form mold.

One reason that physicians have had so much trouble knocking down infantile paralysis is that the disease is spread by viruses which they can't control because they cannot see except (in outline) under an electron microscope, the most powerful "eye" available to them.

The bacteria—"blitzing" lamp, which scientists aptly and promptly called the Sterilamp, has extremely tiny targets. 20,000 "mid-size" bacteria, form a line an inch long. And 250,000 of them could crowd into the space around the period at the end of this sentence.

The Sterilamp is a tube of special glass which will permit ultraviolet to pass. It contains a drop of mercury and a tiny amount of two gases. Electric current of the energy required to set the gases in motion is applied and the ultraviolet "machine gun" starts firing.

Hundreds of thousands of these lamps, developed in the Westinghouse laboratories, already are on guard in thousands of places, holding down the chances of persons passing on infections to others or of food spoiling. They keep a scientific vigil in school-

rooms, hospitals, homes, public meeting places, plants where foods, drugs and cosmetics are processed, in soda fountains and restaurants.

On the farm, the lamps protect livestock and poultry against disease and improve sanitation in the milk house.

One of the most important places for the lamps is in air conditioning ducts, killing germs that ride on the wings of recirculated air. Hospital operating rooms, where gowns, instruments and surgical dressings are sterile, use a special type of lamp mounted in the giant lighting fixture over the operating table and on the operating room walls to keep the air as germ-free as possible. The tubes also protect areas where baked goods are stored and handled.

Bacteria were first seen and described in 1683 by Anthony van Leeuwenhoek, a Dutch dry goods clerk who peered at the squirming micro-organisms through a magnifying glass he invented.

Almost 200 years intervened before Louis Pasteur discovered that disease, mold, fermentation and decay were by-products of bacteria. Proving that there was a way to kill bacteria by heat, he saved the French wine industry of his day by boiling out contaminating organisms in the wine. The heating process, known as Pasteurization, is carried over into today's milk industry.

After that, science moved faster in its assault on bacteria. A new weapon—chemicals—was summoned into the fight. Joseph Lister in 1867 conquered wound infections by applying carbolic acid dressings, setting the pattern for modern methods of antiseptics in surgery.

Both Pasteur and Robert Koch, Ehrlich's associate, developed vaccines or serums made from cultures of bacteria.

Then came A. Downes and T. P. Blunt, two Englishmen, who showed in 1877 that there was a medium of disinfection as simple as the sun. It was the ultra-violet in the sun's rays with power potent enough to kill bacteria.

Long research showed, however, that only a few of these rays in sunlight ever reach earth. That was when Westinghouse scientists succeeded in reproducing within a lamp the power to radiate bacteria-killing ultraviolet.

One of the most important steps in developing the lamp was the determination of the wave length required. Visible radiations are distinguished by scientists and physicists not only in terms of color—red, orange, yellow, green, blue and violet—but also by measuring the wave lengths which produce various color sensations upon the eye.

A rope, tied to a stake, moves lazily and in a series of long ripples if the rope is wiggled slowly from the loose end. If the rope is jerked rapidly, the ripples are rapid and shorter. The distances between the crests on the rope illustrate wave length and demonstrate that the more frequent the radiations, the shorter the wave length.

Scientists measure wave lengths in terms of Angstrom units, named after a Swedish scientist who drew up the standards. An Angstrom unit is so tiny that it takes 250,000,000 of them to equal one inch. The shortest visible wave length is violet, or 4,000 Angstrom units. Below violet lies an invisible band used both in photography and to obtain some fluorescent lighting effects. The next band below produces sun tan and Vitamin D.

Epidemics some day conceivably will be found only in histories and medical textbooks!



BAT MAN

With
ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER

THE GREATEST TASK FORCE OF
UNDERWORLD "KNOW-HOW" EVER
ASSEMBLED IS BROUGHT TOGETHER BY
A MYSTERIOUS AND POWERFUL CRIMINAL
TO ACCOMPLISH A SINGLE SINISTER
MISSION! THE ASSIGNMENT:

To Destroy Batman and Robin!

Thus the two caped deputies of the
law come face to face with a
barrage of criminal cunning and
pit their wits and courage against
a fantastic death trap engineered
by the fabulous empire of evil
that is ruled by...

"The BLACK
DIAMOND!"



ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF GOTHAM CITY, BEHIND THE HIGH GRANITE WALLS OF A PRISON, AN AUDIENCE OF CONVICTS IS GATHERED FOR THE WEEKLY MOVIE...

AW, YOU
MUST'VE SEEN
THIS PICTURE
BEFORE!

I'LL BET THE
COPPERS GET
THE CROOKS.



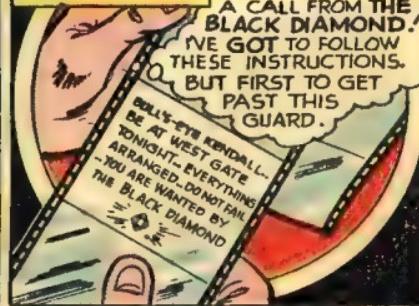
WHILE UP IN THE PROJECTION ROOM, BULL'S-EYE KENDALL, THE UNDERWORLD'S KEENEST-EYED TRIGGER-MAN, REWINDS A REEL OF FILM...

NOW TO READ THE WEEKLY MESSAGE FROM THE "OUTSIDE" ON THIS FRAME IN THE BLANK STRIP OF LEADER...



THE GANGLAND GRAPEVINE EMPLOYS AN INGENIOUS METHOD TO CARRY ITS MESSAGES... A SINGLE FRAME OF MICRO-FILM SPLICED INTO THE BLANK LEADER STRIP USED FOR THREADING FILM INTO THE PROJECTOR...

A CALL FROM THE BLACK DIAMOND!
I'VE GOT TO FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS. BUT FIRST TO GET PAST THIS GUARD.



SUDDENLY, BULL'S-EYE PLITS A MATCH TO A REEL OF FILM AND FORMS A FIERY TORCH...

HEY! DOUSE THAT QUICK. FIRE! FIRE!

HAW! HAW! HERE'S THE HOTTEST PICTURE EVER TO COME OUT OF HOLLYWOOD! HAW! HAW! HAW.



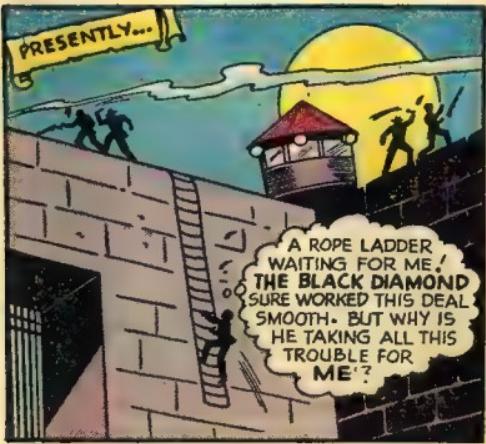
WITH THE GUARDS ALL DRAWN TO THE SCENE OF THE BLAZE, IN THE CONFUSION BULL'S-EYE MAKES HIS WAY TO THE WEST GATE THROUGH AN EXIT BEHIND THE MOVIE SCREEN...

HAW! HAW!
NOW FOR MY APPOINTMENT WITH THE BLACK DIAMOND!

THESE EXCLUSIVE MAMMOTH NEWS-REEL FILMS SHOW HOW BATMAN AND ROBIN CAPTURED THE NOTORIOUS RIVER GANG!



PRESENTLY...



A ROPE LADDER
WAITING FOR ME!
THE BLACK DIAMOND
SURE WORKED THIS DEAL
SMOOTH. BUT WHY IS
HE TAKING ALL THIS
TROUBLE FOR
ME?

THESE TWO WATER-TIGHT CONTAINERS
WERE SUBSTITUTED FOR THE REGULAR
ASH-CANS. TONIGHT, WHEN THE BARGE
COMES TO PICK UP THE ASHES, THESE
TWO CANS WILL "ACCIDENTALLY"
FALL INTO THE RIVER... WITH
YOU IN 'EM!



THAT NIGHT, AFTER BEING PUSHED INTO THE RIVER, THE SWIFT CURRENT RACES THE BARRACUDA BROTHERS DOWNSTREAM IN THEIR STRANGE CRAFT...

THERE THEY
ARE! PULL
ALONGSIDE
AND HAUL 'EM
ABOARD.

THIS FISHIN' PARTY MUSTA
COST THE BLACK
DIAMOND PLENTY!
HE SURE WANTS
THESE TWO MUGS
BAD!



A FEW DAYS LATER, IN ANOTHER PENITENTIARY, THOSE TWO TERRORS OF THE SEA, THE MOST FEARED PIRATES SINCE THE DAYS OF SAILING SHIPS, THE BARRACUDA BROTHERS, RECEIVE AN URGENT SUMMONS...?

PSST... LISTEN,
YOU TWO. ORDERS JUST CAME
FROM THE "OUTSIDE" TO HAVE
YOU SPRUNG... ORDERS FROM
THE BLACK DIAMOND!

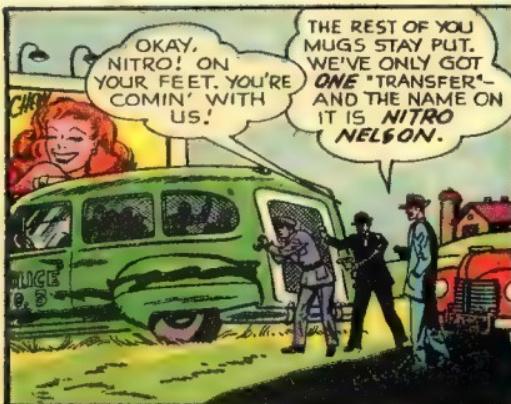


OH, GREAT! AND IN THE MEANTIME, WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED T'DO? STOP BREATHING?
THERE'S A CONTAINER OF OXYGEN INSIDE EACH CAN THAT'LL HOLD YA UNTIL YOU'RE FISHED OUT O' THE WATER. NOW GET IN THERE QUICK BEFORE THE GUARD SPOTS US.



NEXT, THE LONG FINGER OF THE BLACK DIAMOND REACHES OUT TO TAP STILL ANOTHER GANGLAND SPECIALIST...FOR, AS "NITRO" NELSON, MASTER OF HIGH-POWERED EXPLOSIVES, IS BEING TAKEN TO AN EASTERN PRISON, SUDDENLY...





WHO IS THIS MYSTERIOUS GANG LORD WHO SNATCHES CRIMINALS FROM THE STRONGEST BASTIONS OF THE LAW? WHAT IS THE SECRET OF HIS SINISTER POWER? FOR THE ANSWER, LET US GO TO A SUBTERRANEAN, VAULTED HIDEOUT AND MEET FACE TO FACE WITH THE BLACK DIAMOND AS HE HOLDS CONFERENCE WITH THE FOUR CRIMINALS HE HAS JUST RESCUED.

SINCE TIME IMMEMORIAL, RARE GEMS HAVE **ALWAYS** BEEN A SOURCE OF WEALTH AND POWER. THAT IS WHY I HAVE DEVOTED MY LIFE TO COLLECTING THE WORLD'S MOST FABULOUS JEWELS... **THAT**, MY FRIENDS, IS WHY I AM CALLED THE **BLACK DIAMOND**!



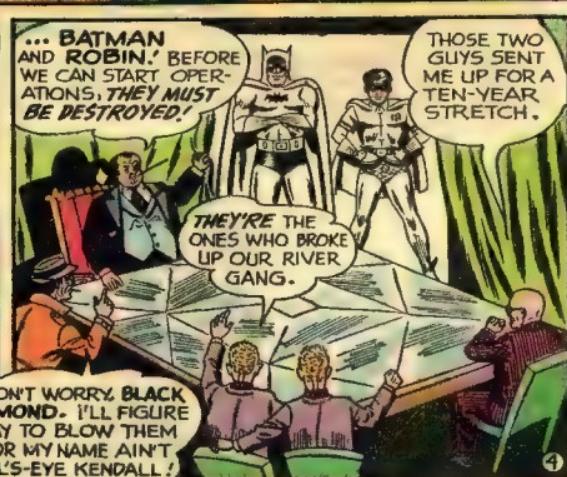
I HAVE BROUGHT YOU FOUR TOGETHER BECAUSE IN ORDER TO EXPAND MY COLLECTION I HAVE NEED OF YOUR SPECIAL TALENTS. YOU WILL EACH BECOME A POINT ON MY HUMAN DIAMOND... AN UNDERWORLD BRAINSTRUST! BUT BETWEEN US AND SUCCESS STAND ...

... BATMAN AND ROBIN! BEFORE WE CAN START OPERATIONS, THEY MUST BE DESTROYED!

THOSE TWO GUYS SENT ME UP FOR A TEN-YEAR STRETCH.



DON'T WORRY, BLACK DIAMOND. I'LL FIGURE A WAY TO BLOW THEM UP—OR MY NAME AINT BULL'S-EYE KENDALL!



THE NEXT DAY AN EVIL PLAN TAKES SHAPE IN THE CUNNING MIND OF NITRO NELSON AS HE STUDIES AN ITEM IN THE GOTHAM NEWS...

THE POLICE DEPARTMENT'S BOMB SQUAD GRADUATES TOMORROW, EH? HERE'S WHERE THEY GET A LESSON THEY MISSED IN SCHOOL... AND BATMAN AND ROBIN WILL GRADUATE FOR GOOD!



THE NIGHT BEFORE GRADUATION, NITRO AND HIS HENCHMEN GAIN ENTRANCE INTO THE BASEMENT OF THE POLICE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM AND SET THE STAGE FOR THE ASSASSINATION OF THE DYNAMIC DUO...

GUYS, KEEP MOVIN'; WE WANT TO GIVE THE BOMB SQUAD CLASS OF '50 A REAL BANG! HA! HA!



WHEN THE ORGAN STARTS TO PLAY AT THE END OF GRADUATION EXERCISES TOMORROW, THE SOUND WAVES WILL SEND AN IMPULSE THROUGH THIS "MIKE" TO THE DETONATOR BELOW... THEN WE'LL HAVE SOME REAL MUSIC!



THE NEXT DAY, MEMBERS OF THE BOMB SQUAD GRADUATING CLASS ARE LINED UP IN FRESHLY PRESSED UNIFORMS AS BATMAN PREPARES AN EXCITING EXPERIMENT.



ROBIN AND I TAKE GREAT PLEASURE IN PRESENTING TO YOU, GOTHAM CITY'S NEWEST RECRUITS IN THE BATTLE AGAINST CRIME, THE LATEST PRODUCT OF THE BAT CAVE...



WHILE IN THE AUDIENCE, NITRO NELSON IS ON HAND FOR ONE LAST LOOK AT HIS INTENDED VICTIMS.

THE ORGAN WON'T START TO PLAY UNTIL BATMAN FINISHES HIS SPEECH. I'LL GET OUT IN TIME TO WATCH THIS PLACE WIPE OFF THE MAP!

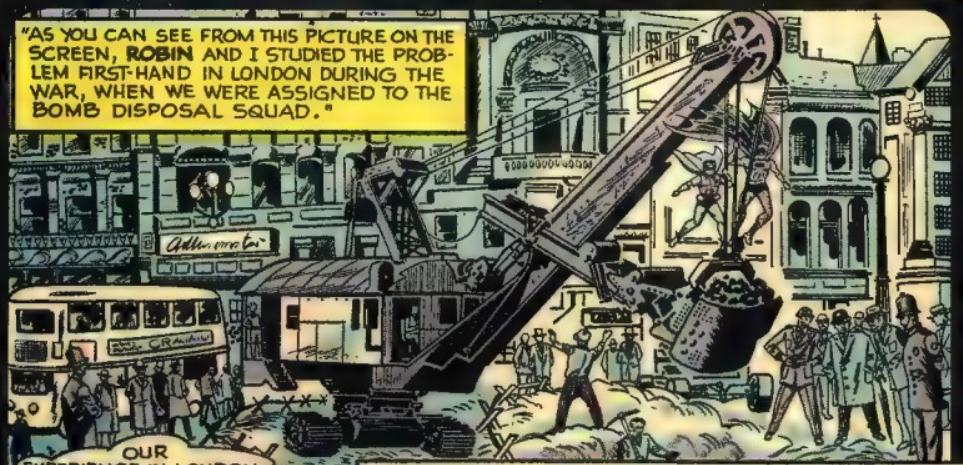


ONE OF THE GREATEST DANGERS MEMBERS OF THE BOMB SQUAD ALWAYS MUST RISK IS THE NECESSITY FOR COMING IN CONTACT WITH AN EXPLOSIVE IN ORDER TO DETECT ITS PRESENCE...





"AS YOU CAN SEE FROM THIS PICTURE ON THE SCREEN, ROBIN AND I STUDIED THE PROBLEM FIRST-HAND IN LONDON DURING THE WAR, WHEN WE WERE ASSIGNED TO THE BOMB DISPOSAL SQUAD."



OUR EXPERIENCE IN LONDON INSPIRED US TO INVENT A SAFETY DEVICE. AFTER A YEAR OF EXPERIMENTS IN THE BAT CAVE, WE FINALLY PERFECTED AN INSTRUMENT THAT WILL ELIMINATE THIS DANGER. ALL RIGHT, ROBIN, BRING IT OUT.

EAGERLY, THE BOMB SQUAD MEN WATCH AS ROBIN APPEARS WITH A BIZARRE-LOOKING CONTRAPTION.

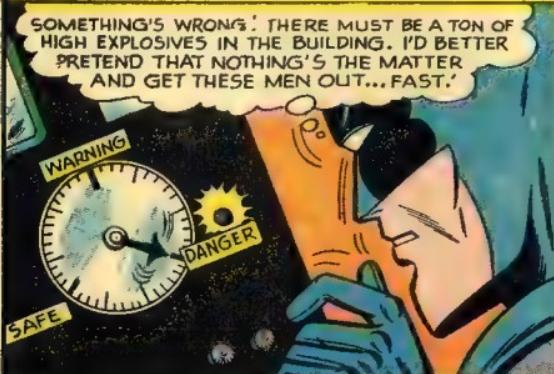
WE CALL THIS THE BAT COUNTER. IT WILL REGISTER EVEN A MINUTE QUANTITY OF EXPLOSIVE MATERIAL IN THE AREA BEING TESTED.

IF THERE WERE ANY EXPLOSIVES NEARBY, THE TRANSMITTER ON ROBIN'S BACK WOULD SEND A WARNING SIGNAL WHICH WOULD REGISTER ON THE DIAL OF THE BAT COUNTER!

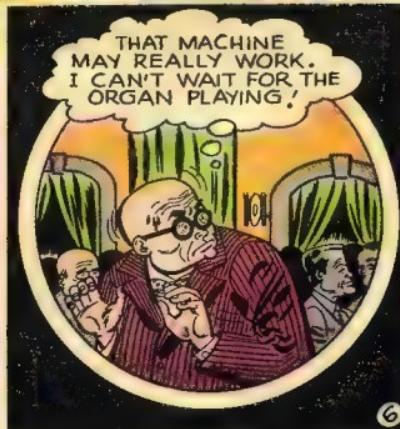


SUDDENLY, THE SENSITIVE MECHANISM OF THE BAT COUNTER REACTS VIOLENTLY...

SOMETHING'S WRONG! THERE MUST BE A TON OF HIGH EXPLOSIVES IN THE BUILDING. I'D BETTER PRETEND THAT NOTHING'S THE MATTER AND GET THESE MEN OUT... FAST!



THAT MACHINE MAY REALLY WORK. I CAN'T WAIT FOR THE ORGAN PLAYING!



BACKSTAGE, NITRO FINDS THE CONTROLS TO THE PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM WHICH CAN CARRY HIS VOICE TO THE ASSEMBLED CROWD...

HOW ABOUT THREE CHEERS FOR BATMAN AND ROBIN, FOLKS? HIP, HIP, HOORAY!

NOW TO GET OUT OF HERE FAST BEFORE THE YELL OF THAT CROWD IS PICKED UP BY THE "MIKE" IN THE ORGAN AND SETS OFF THE DETONATOR.

BLIT SUDDENLY...

THAT WAS QUITE A SPEECH, NITRO. YOU SURE BELONG IN THE SPOTLIGHT!

AND THIS SAND-BAG WILL HELP YOU TAKE A BOW!

CLONK!

GOOD THING WE STARTED CHECKING BACKSTAGE...

BATMAN! ROBIN! QUICK! GET ME OUT OF HERE BEFORE THAT CROWD STARTS TO CHEER! IT'LL SET OFF A DETONATOR!

TOO BAD YOU DIDN'T HAVE AN AUDIENCE, NITRO, BUT WHILE YOU WERE BACKSTAGE MAKING YOUR SPEECH, BATMAN MADE AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS OWN.

AFTER I ANNOUNCED THAT FREE REFRESHMENTS WOULD BE SERVED OUTSIDE DURING INTERMISSION, THE PLACE WAS EMPTIED QUICKER THAN YOU COULD SAY ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER!

AND IN ANOTHER PART OF THE CITY, THE BARRACUDA BROTHERS RELAX AT A GAME OF AQUA TENNIS, WHILE THE BLACK DIAMOND RAGES AT NITRO'S FAILURE.

THAT FOOL NITRO... BACK IN JAIL AND BATMAN AND ROBIN STILL ALIVE! THIS IS NO TIME FOR GAMES!

TAKE IT EASY, DIAMOND. BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE THE JUDGES AT TOMORROW'S BIG SAILBOAT RACE. WITH OUR PIRATE SHIP ENTERED, THOSE TWO LANDLUBBERS ARE IN FOR A SURPRISE FINISH!



THE FOLLOWING DAY, ABOARD THE BAT SHIP, ROBIN FIRES THE SIGNAL TO START... AND A DOZEN SLEEK SHIPS PUT OUT TO SEA FOR THE ANNUAL GOTHAM REGATTA ...



AS THE RACE PROGRESSES, A HEAVY FOG SETTLES OVER THE SEA. AND ABOARD ONE OF THE RACING CRAFT THE KIND OF SCENE WHICH STRUCK FEAR INTO THE HEARTS OF MARINERS OF OLD IS ENACTED ...

ALL RIGHT, MEN, RUN UP THE JOLLY ROGER! PUT OUT THE RUNNING LIGHTS. LOOK LIVELY, NOW!

THIS FOG'S A BIT O' LUCK! WE'LL SNEAK UP ALONGSIDE THE BAT SHIP AND BOARD HER. AHoy! THERE'S 'ER LIGHTS OFF THE STARBOARD BEAM!



PRESENTLY, FROM THE DECK OF THE BAT SHIP, THE TWO MASKED LAWMEN LOOK UP TO SEE THE SINISTER PIRATE CRAFT BEARING DOWN UPON THEM...

JUMP TO IT, LADS! MAKE FAST A LINE!

YOU BELOW! START THE WINCHES!



AS THE BAT SHIP IS HAULED TOWARD THE MYSTERIOUS SAILING CRAFT, HUGE DOORS IN HER STERN YAWN OPEN LIKE SOME GIANT MOUTH.

WELCOME ABOARD THE GOOD SHIP BARRACUDA. WE'VE GOT A ONE-WAY PASSAGE BOOKED FOR YOU TWO... STRAIGHT TO DAVY JONES' LOCKER! HA, HA!





LIKE PIRATES OF OLD, THE BARRACUDA BROTHERS AND THEIR VILLAINOUS CREW PLAN A WATERY DEATH FOR THEIR TWO VICTIMS...

A COUPLE OF LEAD WEIGHTS ON THEIR FEET, THEN OVER THE SIDE WITH 'EM, I SAY.

BAH! THAT'S TOO QUICK... MAKE THEM WALK THE PLANK!

HATCH, JAGER! WE'VE GOT A SPECIAL TREAT FOR BATMAN.



FEW HAVE SURVIVED THE ANCIENT PIRATE'S "GAME" OF HAULING THE KEEL...

NOT VERY COMFORTABLE, BUT THESE SHARP BARNACLES SHOULD CUT THROUGH THE ROPES BINDING MY HANDS!



EAGERLY THE PIRATE CREW WAITS FOR THEIR PRISONER TO BE HAULED TO THE SURFACE...

WHEW! THIS BATMAN GLY WEIGHS MORE DEAD THAN ALIVE.

NOW TO CUT THOSE ROPES HOLDING ROBIN WITH THIS RAZOR CLAM I PICKED UP.



WHEN WE PULL THE OTHER END OF THIS ROPE THAT RUNS UNDER THE SHIP, BATMAN'LL GET A CHANCE TO SEE WHAT THE BARNACLES UNDER THIS TUB FEEL LIKE.



SLOWLY, THE SHARP SHELLS OF THE TINY SEA PARASITES SLASH BATMAN'S BONDS...

THIS'LL GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO TUG ON WHILE I GO BACK AND FREE ROBIN!



SECONDS LATER, THE DYNAMIC DUO GOES INTO DYNAMITE ACTION...

BATMAN! BUT... YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE UNDER A FATHOM OF OCEAN!

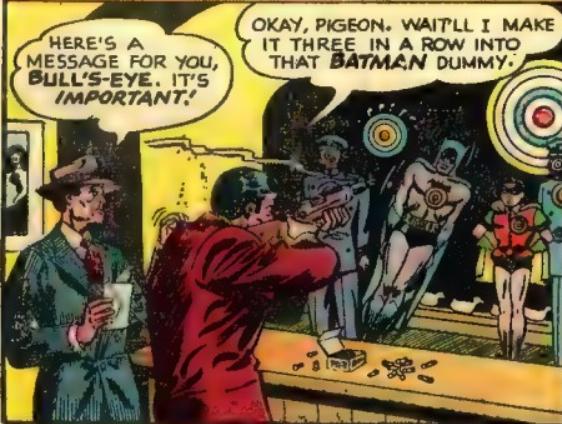
MAYBE THIS WILL CONVINCE YOU THAT I'M STILL BREATHING!

STRIKE! NOW TO HEAD BACK TO SHORE AND PUT THESE "FISH" ON ICE.





LATER, AS BULL'S-EYE KENDALL, THE ONLY ONE OF THE BLACK DIAMOND'S SPECIALISTS STILL AT LARGE, PRACTICES AT AN UNDERWORLD SHOOTING GALLERY...



PRESENTLY, AT THE HIDEOUT OF THE BLACK DIAMOND...

BULL'S-EYE, REMEMBER HOW YOU ELIMINATED MY ENEMY, BLACK-OUT NOLAN, WHO USED TO OPERATE ONLY IN THE DARK OF NIGHT?

YEAH, BOSS... WITH THAT LUMINOUS DIAMOND STUCK ON HIS BACK, HE MADE AN EASY TARGET. BUT HOW'M I GONNA MARK BATMAN?

I'LL HANDLE THAT. TOMORROW NIGHT, MONSIEUR MONTEAU, THE FRENCH DIPLOMAT, WILL ATTEND A BIG DINNER WITH BATMAN AND ROBIN. MONTEAU WON'T ARRIVE, BUT THE BLACK DIAMOND WILL... DISGUISED AS A FRENCH DIPLOMAT!



AFTER DINNER THE FOLLOWING NIGHT, "MONSIEUR MONTEAU" SPEAKS PRIVATELY WITH BATMAN...

MONSIEUR LE BATMAN, LATELY THERE HAVE BEEN THREATS ON MY LIFE. COULD YOU AND ROBIN CONDUCT ME TO MY HOTEL IN YOUR MAGNIFICENT BATMOBILE? ON ROLITE, I WILL EXPLAIN THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

NOW TO PLACE THIS LUMINOUS TARGET ON HIS BACK.

WITH PLEASURE, MONSIEUR.

MARKED BY A TARGET, INVISIBLE IN LIGHT BUT BRILLIANT IN DARKNESS, BATMAN HEADS FOR THE DIPLOMAT'S HOTEL ON THE LONELY OUTSKIRTS OF GOTHAM CITY...

HERE'S THE SPOT WHERE BULL'S-EYE IS WAITING. NOW TO GET BATMAN OUT OF THE CAR.

OH, OHH... MY STOMACH! PLEASE, YOU MUST STOP FOR A MOMENT.



AS BATMAN LEAVES THE BULLET-PROOF VEHICLE TO COME TO THE AID OF THE STRICKEN DIPLOMAT, THE RADIANT TARGET ON HIS BACK APPEARS IN BULL'S-EYE'S GUN-SIGHTS...

A PERFECT TARGET. ALL RIGHT, BATMAN, THIS IS YOUR FINISH!

THE CRACK OF A RIFLE, THE WHINE OF A BULLET, AND BATMAN CRASHES OVER THE STEEP EMBANKMENT BESIDE THE ROAD.

BATMAN... HE'S BEEN SHOT! QUICK, MONSIEUR MONTEAU, GRAB THE FIRST-AID KIT AND FOLLOW ME!



HOW WAS THAT FOR SHOOTING, BLACK DIAMOND?

THE BLACK DIAMOND!! AND I FELL FOR THAT DISGUISE!

NOT SO FAST, KID. YOU'RE GOING WITH US.

THIS TIME I'M TAKING NO CHANCES. GO OVER THE EMBANKMENT AND MAKE SURE THAT BATMAN IS REALLY DEAD!

YEAH, I'LL GIVE HIM A COUPLE MORE SLUGS FOR GOOD MEASURE!



AS THE SOUND OF TWO MORE SHOTS MOMENTARILY DISTRACTS DIAMOND, ROBIN ABRUPTLY BREAKS AWAY...

HA! THAT DOES IT. THE ENTIRE UNDERWORLD WILL THANK ME FOR THIS NIGHT'S WORK... HEY, COME BACK HERE, YOU BRAT!



LATER, AFTER ESCAPING SUCCESSFULLY, ROBIN RETURNS TO THE SCENE. THERE, BESIDE THE LIMP, CLOAK-CAPED FIGURE, A BROKEN-HEARTED YOUTH KNEELS IN A FINAL FAREWELL...

THE BRAVEST, MOST GENEROUS FRIEND IN ALL THE WORLD, AND NOW... HE'D DEAD!



PRESENTLY, AT HIS HIDEOUT, THE BLACK DIAMOND IS ABOUT TO PRESENT A SURPRISE "REWARD" TO THE JUBILANT BULL'S-EYE ...

"BATMAN DEAD!" I CAN SEE THE NEWSPAPER HEADLINES NOW... EVERY CROOK IN THE COUNTRY CAN BE THANKFUL TO US. TOO BAD, THOUGH, THAT BRAT ROBIN GOT AWAY.

EVERY COP IN THE COUNTRY WILL NOW BE OUT TO Avenge BATMAN'S DEATH! IT'LL BE A LOT SAFER FOR ME WITHOUT YOU. THE CHAIR IN WHICH YOU'RE SITTING IS AN ELECTRIC CHAIR... I THROW THIS SWITCH AND...

SUDDENLY...

YOU'RE A LITTLE LATE, DIAMOND. BATMAN'S "KILLER" IS ALREADY BEHIND BARS!

ROBIN!! WHY..ER..AH...

THERE'S BATMAN'S KILLER. BULL'S-EYE KENDALL... HE DID IT. I...ER..AH.. WAS JUST ABOUT TO TURN HIM OVER TO THE POLICE WHEN YOU ARRIVED!



FOR A BRIEF INSTANT, BULL'S-EYE STEPS INTO A SHADOW IN THE CORNER OF THE ROOM... THEN MIRACULOUSLY RETURNS AS ... BATMAN!

BATMAN!! NO, THIS CAN'T BE... I SAW YOU KILLED BEFORE MY OWN EYES. HOW CAN YOU BE HERE... AND ALIVE?

SIMPLE... HAVING ONCE LIVED IN FRANCE, I SPOTTED YOUR PHONEY ACCENT. WHEN YOU PULLED THAT SICK GAG, I WAS ALERT FOR TREACHERY. I SAW THE LUMINOUS DIAMOND ON MY BACK REFLECTED IN THE BATMOBILE'S WINDSHIELD, AND AS BULL'S-EYE FIRED, I DIVED FOR THE EMBANKMENT.

"I PRETENDED TO BE HIT, AND, WHEN BULL'S-EYE FOLLOWED ME OVER THE EMBANKMENT, I TACKLED HIM, CAUSING HIS GUN TO GO OFF... THOSE WERE THE LAST TWO SHOTS YOU HEARD."

NOW FOR A QUICK CHANGE OF CLOTHES AND SOME MAKE-UP FROM MY UTILITY BELT!

BANG!
BANG!



"DISGUISED AS BULL'S-EYE, I RETURNED TO THE BATMOBILE WHERE BLACK DIAMOND WAS WAITING. ROBIN FOUND THE REAL BULL'S-EYE LYING UNCONSCIOUS, COVERED BY MY CAPE."

SO BATMAN WENT WITH DIAMOND. I'LL TURN BULL'S-EYE OVER TO THE POLICE AND THEN TRACE THE BATMOBILE.



THE POLICE CAR RADIO PICKED UP THE BATMOBILE'S RADIO CARRIER WAVE AND LED US RIGHT TO THE DOOR.

AND JUST IN TIME TO SAVE ME FROM BEING "KILLED" FOR THE SECOND TIME IN ONE NIGHT!



THE END



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ALL MUNCH

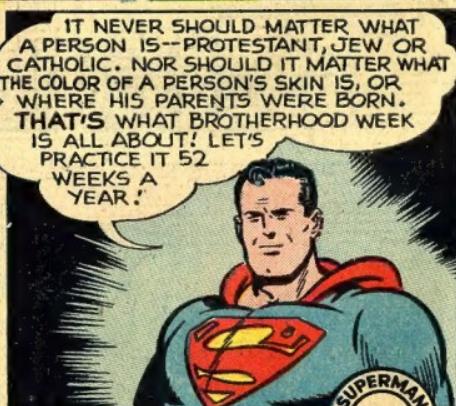
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